NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—King Charming—Catching a Mermaid.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—Jovita—Radol.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—Victorine—Ev'ry-Man-Iana.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—New Year's Eve—Heads and Tails—Burton's New York Directory for 1856.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—Little Treasure—Do-ca-hon-tas—John Peter John & Co.

LAURA KEENE'S VARIETIES, Broadway—The King of the Court and Queen of the Market—Perfection.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, 444 Broadway—Ethiopian Performances—Sambo's Dream.

BUCKLEY'S BURLESQUE OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway—Negro Minstrelsy—Richard III.

New York, Monday, January 7, 1856.

The News.

A snow storm of unexampled severity visited the whole Atlantic coast, from Maryland to Halifax, on Saturday last, and continued to rage for from fifteen to eighteen hours. In Boston it was the most severe storm that has occurred for seventy years, and in this city the "oldest inhabitant" can remember nothing like it. The mails have all been detained, and in this city the railroad have stopped running. The sleighing will be excellent for some days to come, as the ground is covered on a level with from fourteen to eighteen inches of snow.

Our Washington correspondents agree in announcing the rumored retirement of Mr. Crampton, and it is asserted that he is now arranging his affairs preparatory to a speedy return to England. It is likewise rumored that our government has notified Great Britain that Mr. Crampton will not be permitted to remain; and it is furthermore rumored that in the event of his dismissal the British government will have no further intercourse with the United States, and that Mr. Buchanan will be presented his passports. Indeed, there seems to be no end to the rumors in diplomatic circles at Washington. Wonder if the recent arrests in Cincinnati of persons charged with violating the neutrality laws have anything to do with the propagation of these exciting rumors.

The steamship Arago arrived at this port yesterday from Havre and Southampton, after a tempestuous passage, with European advices to the 19th ult., four days later than those brought by the Pacific. In the editorial columns we have briefly commented upon the most important points of the news. The continued prevalence of peace rumors had caused a buoyancy in financial affairs, and a corresponding depression in the cotton and provision markets. The Canada, with three days' later intelligence, is over due at Halifax. Our latest despatch from that city states that a furious snow storm prevailed, and that the arrival of the steamer could not be looked for until it had abated.

We publish this morning a series of tables giving the total number of births, marriages and deaths in this city during the past year, according to the returns at the office of the City Inspector. These statistics, which are among the most important and interesting published by any of the departments of our municipal government, were made up in our own office, and in advance of the official report, which will not be ready for publication before April or May next. In addition to the total mortality for every month in the year, these tables give the minutest details in regard to the diseases, the nativity, the age and sex of the deceased. During the last twelve months the number of deaths in New York was 22,787; the number of deaths 14,496, and of births 5,595, showing a disproportion of 8,291 between the births and deaths. Judging by these figures, it would appear that our population is rapidly diminishing; and there might be some cause for alarm were we not well convinced to the contrary. The disparity is produced by the neglect of parents to comply with the requirements of the law in regard to the registry of the births of their children. The new City Inspector should see that the law is more strictly enforced, for as it exists at present it is entirely ineffective for the purposes intended.

At a meeting of the Almshouse Governors on Saturday evening Simeon Draper was elected President of the Board on the fourteenth ballot, the vote standing—Draper, 7; blank, 1; necessary to a choice, 6. On the second ballot C. Godfrey Gunther was elected Secretary. After the organization, Isaac Bell, Jr., a hard shell democrat of the Eighteenth ward, was selected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ed. C. West. It is understood that Jos. S. Taylor, Street Commissioner elect, intends to hold his position as Almshouse Governor; the law, in his opinion, not interfering with his doing so, as one is a city and the other a county office. There is some talk of issuing a mandamus, compelling him to resign one position or the other.

Our correspondent on board the United States ship Savannah, writing on November 28, off Rio Janeiro, gives the particulars of the cruise of that vessel when in search of the boats of the lost ship Cleopatra. The run was uninteresting, with the exception of a visit to the island of Trinidada, and the fun of manœuvering around the flag ship of a French Admiral and giving him a lesson in American seamanship. One hundred and twenty-one merchant ships lay in the port of Rio at the above date. The allied war ships had a joyous time on the receipt of the news of the fall of Sebastopol, but on shore a severe fight occurred between some French and British sailors on the subject of the claim of each nation to the exclusive honor of having taken the city. Rio Janeiro was healthy, and had been visited by a terrific rain storm. The United States brig of war Bainbridge had left on a cruise. It was thought that the Savannah would visit Montevideo. The report of the action of the Naval Examining Board had caused much sensation in that vessel. In Rio Mr. Franklin Palmer had called a meeting of Americans, and as he did not state the object for which they were to assemble, the fact had caused some remarks to be made as to our revolutionary sympathies and tendencies. Coffee was a shade lower in the market. There appears to exist some difficulty between Mr. Robert Scott, United States Consul at Rio, and some of the American merchants residing in that city.

On Saturday dealers in cotton were waiting the receipt of later foreign news, the delay of which, together with the extreme inclemency of the weather, had a tendency to check sales. The stock, continued to be light, and prices to rule firm, while the sales were confined to a few hundred bales. Flour was 6¼c. lower for common and medium grades. 1,500 bbls. common Michigan were sold at $8, cash, payable on the day of delivery. Common to extra State ranged from $8 18¾ a $8 37½. Wheat was steady, and in fair demand without change of moment in prices. Corn was firm, and in good export and Eastern demand. Pork was again lower, and sales of mess were pretty freely made at $16 25 a $16 50. Beef and lard were dull. Sugars were steady, with moderate sales. Coffee was quiet. The news from Rio was considered to be some less favorable for holders than was expected. Freights to English ports were made to a fair extent, at steady rates. To Liverpool they were somewhat easier, while to London they were quite firm, with more offering. To the continent there was no change worthy of notice.

We published in the Herald of yesterday a full report of the second day's investigation into the charges made against the Chief of Police. There were a large number of witnesses examined before the Board of Police Commissioners in regard to the nativity of Mr. Matsell, but all their evidence was based upon the hearsay of other parties, none of whom were present. One witness stated that she came from England to this country in the same vessel with the Chief's family—that is, his mother, father, sisters, and brothers, but she could not tell how many there were, and whether there was a boy named George (the Chief), among them. The rest of the evidence related to the English account of the Matsell family, the business pursued by the father, the house in which he lived, the fact of the Chief having in his youth gone to school in Tryon row, and of his having presided at a political meeting at a more advanced period of his existence. A great portion of the evidence was also cumulative on these points, none of which, the defendant's counsel contended, were of any legal force so far as the question of alienism was concerned. Next Saturday will also be taken up by the prosecution in the examination of their own witnesses, of whom we understand about forty have been subpœnaed. If it is their intention to give their testimony, it will be three or four months before the investigation can be brought to a close. The defendant stated, through his counsel, that he had a considerable number of respectable witnesses who were ready to testify that they had been told by the father and mother of the Chief that he was born in the United States.

The News from Europe.

The Arago arrived yesterday, after an unusually long passage, bringing dates to the 19th ult. Her news is not of much importance.

The leading fact is the rumored accession of Sweden to the Western alliance. This is stated positively in a telegraphic message from Stockholm to the *Daily News*, and is probably a fact. It does not appear that Sweden is bound to take the field against Russia. She covenants not to alienate any portion of her territory to the Czar, or entertain any proposal from him without communicating the same to the Western Powers. It will be remembered that the active adhesion of the King of Sardinia to the alliance was preceded by a similar league. Much has been said about the true policy of Sweden at the present crisis. Her position is undoubtedly difficult. Should Russia, by any chance, prove the victor in the present contest, Sweden would find that she has committed suicide by strengthening the bonds which unite her to the Western Powers. If, on the other hand, Russia is baffled, and the cost of the war is such that the victors consider it just to punish her, a present of Finland would probably reward King Oscar for his timely support.

Another subject of gossip is the visit of Count Esterhazy to St. Petersburg. We give elsewhere a very significant article from the London *Globe*—generally supposed to write under ministerial inspiration—on the subject of his mission. It seems to be understood that he is the bearer of the ultimatum of Austria; and that in the event of his failure, the Emperor will join the Allies. Here, at all events, this story will be received with doubt and indifference. Austria has evinced no desire to participate in the war in any contingency; but on the contrary a very lively anxiousness to keep out of it, and amuse the belligerents with never ending negotiations. It looks as though she was doing so still. The London *Globe* speaks of the terms which Count Esterhazy is instructed to propose to Alexander, as if they were not only injurious but positively insulting to Russia; it is curious, if this be true, that Francis Joseph should have chosen for their bearer a statesman whose Russian sympathies are notorious.

It is said that the Czar is about to emancipate his serfs. The rumor needs confirmation. The late Alexander always meditated this design, and had his practical ability been equal to his theoretical ingenuity, he would have tried it in Russia as he did in his German provinces. He had a scheme in his head for the abolition of slavery not only in Russia but in the United States also. Whether the present Czar follows his example as far as this, remains to be seen.

From the seat of war there is no news; and except the death of the poet Rogers, there is no item of particular moment in our London advices.

The Monster Snow Storm of the Fifth and Sixth.—The oldest Revolutionary soldier among us will concede, has conceded, we doubt not, that our monster snow storm of Saturday and Saturday night last, over-lapping into Sunday morning, was fully up to the high water mark of those Russian snows which were the great winter peculiarities of these parts when he was a boy. Very likely there have not been above a half-dozen such snows in New York since old Peter Stuyvesant went sleigh-riding on "the high road to Boston," now known as the Bowery and the Third avenue.

In another article we give to-day a detailed account of this Arctic visitation, as far as present information extends. We doubt not this storm has covered a vast area of country, for our last despatch of Saturday night from Washington, informed us that it had been snowing there all day. The railroads, of course, have been blockaded in every direction; but in opening the tracks, those sturdy workers, Pat and Hans, Tom, Dick and Harry, will get an extra job or two, and thousands of poor laborers in this and other cities and towns gathered yesterday, and will gather to-day, their subsistence for several days, clear gain, from the application of their shovels to the snow-drifts piled up in Labradorian style upon every side. Thus we have still the old saw about the "ill wind" fully realized; although, take it altogether, sleigh-riding and murdered horses, obstructed streets and never ending slush and mud included, our opinion is that twelve days and nights of continuous rain, in a moderate way, would be less disadvantageous and more convenient to this city than this twelve hours of drifting snow.

We have reason to fear that this storm may be but the overture to a hard and trying winter; but still we hope for better things. Certainly, if the year '56 is to be as remarkable in all other great things as in this terrible snow squall, it will be a year of prodigious events.

Not Posted Up.—The Richmond *Enquirer* indulges in the following congratulations on democratic harmony. Hear him for his cause:—

> The democracy is now one determined, compact and national party. Sectional feuds and sectional feelings are obliterated and forgotten. It is the party of the constitution and the country—the only sheet-anchor of hope to the conservative and patriotic. Let us endeavor to preserve its unity and integrity, not divide it by discussions as to the superior claims of the North or the South to the next Presidency. The democratic party knows no North, no South.

Does our Richmond cotemporary take the Albany democratic papers? Does he read them, and their information concerning the democracy of this State, hards and softs? Does he know that they cannot harmonize upon a Speaker? That they are still divided and quarrelsome? If nay, then let our enthusiastic Virginia editor study the doings of our democracy at Albany, and tell us which belongs to "the sheet-anchor," the hards or the softs?

Indian Affairs in the United States—The White and the Red Races.

Having given the interesting report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to our readers, it has occurred to us that the occasion is an appropriate one to make some observations upon the past condition of the tribes in this country in connection with the rapid extension of our frontier limits. It is impossible not to see that the aborigines are everywhere regarded as something less than men. We have sought to improve their condition by establishing missionary schools amongst them; they have been pensioners upon the public treasury—wards of the executive departments. They have always excited a large share of public sympathy, and strong hopes have been entertained that they might be reclaimed from barbarism and elevated to the spheres of social, moral and religious enlightenment.

The Indians are certainly an interesting race, and it is agreeable to read the accounts which the federal Commissioner has given of the humane efforts of the government to promote their welfare. He is sanguine of final success in these labors. He reports the existence, within our extended Territorial limits, of three hundred and fourteen thousand of these red men of the forest—these remarkable links which seem to unite the brute with the human species. Not a comment is made upon the statement which the Commissioner has published in regard to the number of his wards. He sees nothing in this fact to influence his opinions concerning the destiny of his people. He encourages us with considerable progress among the Chippewas of Michigan, and the combined Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawattamies of Wisconsin, and a majority of five tribes have also evinced no little advancement in Texas! This is, with trifling variations, the sum total of Indian civilization, after two hundred years of effort. From many millions of men and the sole masters of the continent—from many hundred tribes existing in the pride of superiority—the acknowledged chiefs of empire and of domain in America—they have been reduced to a trifle over a quarter of a million of men, and to-day give up scarcely a single hope that human efforts are capable of elevating them to the scale of civilization and Christianity. It would almost seem as if Providence had closed the doors of progress against them. Unknown to the Christian age, to the Egyptians, to the Chinese, to the Hebrews, to the Greeks and to the Romans, they have steadily resisted every effort to introduce amongst them the arts of civilization which existed in those nations. This may seem to be a harsh judgment, and one unsuited to the spirit of Christianity and to the temper of the present age; but we prefer to look the matter in the face and to be rational and practical. We cannot ignore the past if we would, and there is not in all the variety of our relations with the red man, in peace or in war, politically, religiously or socially, a solitary sign of their regeneration and enlightenment.

It is vain to say they have been severely and harshly treated—it is vain to refer to their original strength and rights on this continent, and to their present weakness and dependence—these things prove rather their stubborn resistance to all the efforts of civilization, than the cruelty of the white races. The sun gives his rays to the white and red alike; the earth is impartial in the fruits it bears to those who apply the conditions of production; and so it is with the conditions of civilization—they too, are fortunately impartial, generous and communicative. These examples to the Indian have been valueless—and it is precisely such causes which have been foremost in leading the white race step by step to its present condition of enlightenment.

A stationary people can no longer hope for a protracted existence—and this is made obvious by the simplest comparison between the Anglo-American and the aboriginal and Mexican races on this continent. The former have driven out the latter, just as the English are driving out the natives of the East, and as Russia is steadily advancing upon the Ottoman empire. The same grand scheme of operations is going on in every part of the globe.

Judged by the standards of experience and philosophy, it is not difficult to come to the conclusion that the native barbarous races of both the Eastern and Western continents are working out their destiny precisely as an overruling Providence intended they should. On this side of the water the Indians never held more than a mere right of passage—a highway privilege of the country. They never turned the earth to uses of production. They added nothing to the wealth or the civilization of mankind. While population was crowding on production in the Old World, they occupied the New, and withheld it from the uses of the human family. Their expulsion was a high Christian duty—a work of humanity—and what is now exhibited is sufficient proof of the justice of this idea.

The chronic efforts of the government to educate, civilize and Christianize them, constitute one of those stubborn features of policy transmitted to us from our ancestors, which, like the Indians themselves, is capable of resisting the force of experience and the teachings of common sense and justice. They are actually degraded by contact with the white race. They show a capability for engrafting upon themselves all our vices, and for successfully resisting all our virtues. Benevolence and philanthropy in this way have been the bane of their people—the curse of their intercourse with us. It is very kindly, very clever, and very Christian-like to set on foot projects for the enlightenment of the ignorant and the reformation of the depraved; but there ought to be an end to such efforts when their fruits are seen to be increased vice and depravity in the objects sought to be benefitted.

Notwithstanding, then, the paternal and earnest spirit of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and his humane suggestions looking to the civilization of the Indians, we submit to Congress whether there should not be an entire change in our federal policy toward them. They should be regarded as a permanent tax upon the United States—they should be protected, cared for, and, as far as possible, provided against want, and especially against the too harsh encroachments of our people; but this silly effort to raise them to the dignity of American citizens, to introduce them to the arts of civilization, to imbue them with the spirit of Christianity should cease. We should regard them as they are—as more than two hundred years of intercourse with them have proved them to be—better off, more virtuous and, if possible, more humane when utterly separated from us than when brought into contact with us. Our sin is not half so great in relieving them of their lands, as through the corrupting influence of annual annuities, in degrading and prostituting them by our contact with them. Money is their great curse—it is the bait which invariably draws to them a swarm of selfish, hideous robbers and low debased villains, who with poison in head, heart and hand, infect the poor Indians; steal from them, debauch their women, and sow the seeds of permanent evil wherever they go. We are quite tired of these annual bulletins from Washington expressing strong hopes of the future, and remarkable only for neglecting to state the true causes of the degradation of the Indian races, which in truth are to be found in the cruel policy of the federal Union itself.

It the government will suppress its present system, and drive out of office its twenty thousand agents—its blacksmiths, its superintendents; annul its treaties—most of them procured by fraud, and nine out of ten without the knowledge of the Indians themselves—and employ its army to remove the tribes into the interior, as remote as possible, and annually supply them with blankets, calicoes, guns, ammunition and other needful articles of use, instead of the money now paid, the tools and implements of agriculture and the thousand articles they never use, we shall be subserving the cause of humanity, and posterity will give us the credit of having, very late in the day, done our duty to the poor Indian.

We concede that there would be difficulty in carrying out this suggestion to the full extent. The Supreme Court has declared that the Indian tribes must be recognized as independent nationalities—a very fogy and absurd decision, and one wholly founded in precedent, and as completely rejected by reason. But there would be no just grounds, however, for rejecting the whole machinery established for the civilization of the tribes, and treating them as races of irreclaimable savages, entitled to the sympathy and the aid of the people of the United States during their short remaining career of existence. There are hundreds of blacksmiths in the Indian service, at high wages, who are scarcely ever employed. They are the instruments for introducing habits of labor, themselves setting the example of idleness. The Indian department, embracing all our relations with the various tribes is the most corrupt of all the operations of the government. It is founded in benevolence—in a humane desire to promote the welfare of the savages—but it has been perverted into an instrument of personal peculation and wholesale official plunder. It is very easy in such a condition of things to produce an interesting statement of the progress of the tribes; meanwhile the great fact stares us in the face that civilization with them is retrograding—their moral condition more and more debased—their spiritual affairs horribly caricatured and degraded—their social interests worse and worse, and their numbers fearfully declining every year.

Dr. Davega.—We publish elsewhere a long extract from a letter of Mr. Russell's, the Sebastopol correspondent of the London *Times*, impugning the veracity of Dr. Davega. Similar assaults have been made upon the Doctor by various other parties in England; perhaps it would be well for him to put a stop to the clamor which his letter has created, by making an example of Mr. Russell. He has, no doubt, the means of showing the truth of all he stated in his communication to us; his character might seem to require some such vindication. For ourselves, we need hardly state that we publish Mr. Russell's statement as we did Dr. Davega's, as matters of current news, without endorsing either.

More Backbone Liniment Wanted.—It is reported from Washington that the fusionists upon Mr. Banks for Speaker, are beginning to show signs of weakness in the backbone, notwithstanding the daily lubrications of Kansas nigger liniment by Weed and Greeley. But this will never do. If the liniment fails, let them try the "poor man's plaster." Let every humbug be exhausted before fusion is confounded for the lack of backbone.

The Common Council for 1856.

The Board of Aldermen will organize to-day, at 12 o'clock, when the newly elected members will be sworn in by the Clerk, and the Board will proceed to the election of a President. We understand that there is no apprehension of any time being frittered away in hopeless opposition, as the ex-President, Alderman Barker, of the Fifteenth ward, has been unanimously agreed upon in whig caucus for re-election. Alderman Barker is a man, from his experience, his suavity and his firmness, as well as from his minute knowledge of parliamentary usages and rules, eminently qualified to preside over a body amongst whom there is too frequently much capriciousness, irregularity, asperbity of feeling and expressions of bad temper. Alderman Barker can subdue a quarrel by throwing oil on the troubled waters, and can call a refractory member to order without offence. Such a man contrasts too favorably with some of his predecessors to admit of a doubt of his re-election. But then the body will not be a Board properly organized until they re-elect as Clerk the veteran, Valentine who has grown gray in the public service, and than whom there is not a more faithful, efficient and obliging public officer. We venture to assert that if the Board was ever composed of twenty-two partisans of one shade of politics, they would not in the face of universal public opinion harbor for a moment the idea of opposing the re-election of David T. Valentine, as Clerk of the Common Council. His deputy, John H. Chambers, who successfully imitates the good qualities of his worthy chief, will be also unanimously re-elected, as will also Joseph B. Young, first assistant, Reeves E. Selmes, second assistant; Hart I. Weed, Sergeant at Arms; Horatio N. Parker and Thomas Hender, as officers. All these gentlemen have so performed their respective duties, that it would be impolitic and unjust to replace them by any political intrigue or desire to create offices for personal friends.

After the organization of the Board, the election of President, and the re-appointment of the Clerk and the other officers, the President will appoint the various committees. The seat of Alderman Drake of the Twenty-second ward, will be strenuously contested by ex-Assembly man, ex-Serjeant-at-Arms and present "Sage of Bloomingdale," Nicholas Seagrist. Mr. Seagrist contends that Alderman Drake holds the seat only by an alleged majority of one, and he has engaged the professional services of Wm. M. Evarts as counsel. Drake is confident of retaining his seat. The subjects of building the new City Hall, and the petition of the Metropolitan Gas Company for permission to lay pipes through the city, will be the most important cases up for consideration. There will be a lively session amongst the city fathers.

The new Board of Councilmen for the year 1856, assemble to-day to commence business. The members will be sworn into office to-day, at 12 o'clock noon, by his Honor the Mayor, at their chambers in the City Hall. The first session will be taken up in organizing, and from present appearances, more than one session may be taken up in effecting this. The parties are almost evenly split up, and in selecting their presiding officer they may give us a repetition of the work of Washington and Albany. There are several Richmonds in the field, all anxious to serve the public in the capacity of President of the Board of Councilmen. There is but little old business waiting for the new Board to complete. The old Board swept off nearly all their papers before they adjourned. The first paper of importance which will come before our new Councilmen is the report of the Committee upon the tax levy of the Comptroller for the year 1856.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY ELECTRIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Non-Arrival of the Canada.

Halifax, Jan. 6—8 P. M.

The steamship Canada has not been heard of up to the present hour. A furious gale and snow storm prevails here. The snow is already four feet deep, and there are no immediate prospects of an abatement. Of course there is but little, if any, chance of the expected steamer making this port to-night.

Important from Washington.

MR. CRAMPTON TO BE DISMISSED—THE COURSE OF ENGLAND IN SUCH A CONTINGENCY—THE SPEAKERSHIP, ETC.

Washington, Jan. 6, 1856.

I learn from an authentic source that our government will not, under any contingency, permit Mr. Crampton to remain; and further, that they have notified the English government if they do not recall him they will be compelled to dismiss him at once.

It is also rumored in certain diplomatic circles that should our government dismiss Mr. Crampton, England would refuse all intercourse with the United States, and give Mr. Buchanan his passports.

The reports to the effect that Mr. Crampton has been empowered by England to abandon her pretensions in Central America, under certain circumstances, is emphatically contradicted.

Mr. Banks will, during the coming week, fall down to eighty votes. Then an attempt will be made to adopt the plurality rule, which will be successful. Then I will tell you who will be elected Speaker. D.

MR. CRAMPTON PACKING UP—THE NICARAGUA QUESTION—LIGHT WANTED—PENNINGTON STOCK ON THE RISE—THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Washington, Jan. 6, 1856.

It is rumored in diplomatic circles that Mr. Crampton is arranging his affairs to return home. What's up?

Will Mr. Marcy favor the public with his letter of instructions to Minister Wheeler, if not "incompatible with the public interests?" It may appear in the columns of the Herald. What a different face the Nicaraguan question would wear?

An effort is making to transfer Banks' vote to Pennington; it is thought the latter might be elected.

Several members of the National Democratic Committee have arrived. The second day of June seems to be the favorite day for the meeting of the convention at Cincinnati. E.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

House of Representatives.

Washington, Jan. 5, 1856.

Mr. Etheredge, (K. N.) of Tenn., said the action of the House demonstrated two propositions—first, the gentlemen voted for have enthusiastic friends; secondly, if either is elected, he will not decline the honor of the chair. He did not believe any successful candidate would so conduct himself as to occasion just reprehension for his official conduct. In the present condition of the public mind, it will be injurious to the country to elect as Speaker a gentleman who is the embodiment of the extreme sentiment of either section. He proposed, as a compromise Mr. Millson, of Virginia, who was opposed to the alien suffrage feature in the Nebraska bill, voted against its passage, and was not in the democratic caucus which nominated Mr. Richardson.

He appealed to the moderate and conservative men to assist him in putting an end to this strife.

Mr. Broom, (K. N.) of Pa., did not agree with Mr. Etheridge in his willingness to descend from their exalted position, and pursue the course suggested. Let all who were elected on the paramount issue of Americanism come together and agree on a candidate, or let the House adopt the resolution which he offered, namely:—That the friends and supporters of the prominent candidates for the Speakership be requested to withdraw them from the further action of the House, and that the members representing the different parties in the House meet, each party appointing a committee of five, with the view of selecting a compromise candidate for the Speakership.

Mr. Millson (dem.), of Va., was surprised that his name had been announced for that position. He requested Mr. Etheridge to withdraw the nomination, for reasons personal to himself. He had been associated with his democratic friends in their earnest effort to elect Mr. Richardson, and the proposition placed him and his friends in an attitude neither wished to assume.

Mr. Etheridge reluctantly withdrew his motion.

Mr. Stephens (whig), of Ga., opposed the resolution of Mr. Broom, considering it wholly impracticable, and reviewed with disapprobation the principles of the American party.

A running debate, involving the merits of the several parties, particularly the American, succeeded, after which Mr. Broom's resolution was tabled. The House then voted twice for Speaker. The last ballot was as follows:—

NINETY SIXTH BALLOT.

Banks	98	Pennington	6
Richardson	72	Scattering	4
Fuller	29		

Necessary to a choice, 105.

Adjourned.

The Latest from the State Capitol.

STATE OFFICERS READY TO REPORT—A SLASHER COMING FROM CLARK, LATE STATE ENGINEER—DEMOCRATIC CORRESPONDENCE—BAILY'S CHANCES FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP, ETC.

Albany, Jan. 5, 1856.

The reports of the late State officers are all prepared, and, together with the Governor's message, are necessarily withheld until the organization of the House. Governor Clark has been consulted as to the propriety of sending in his message some time during the early part of next week, even should no Speaker be chosen. Some of his advisers, who approve of the course taken by President Pierce, have urged a similar course here.

The forthcoming annual report on canals, by Mr. Clark, late State Engineer and Surveyor, will be one of the most interesting documents of the kind on record. Mr. C. has struggled through two years of incessant opposition by the Seward majority in the late Canal Board, and now he is about exposing, in an official character, the profligate and partial conduct of that majority. Some eighteen months since he was placed under proscription. He is now about enlightening the people of this State upon matters of canal policy, with which no man is more qualified to do.

The question of the Speakership is beginning to be narrowed down a trifle. Both Know Nothings and black fusionists have, on several trials, exhibited their full strength, the former 41, the latter 35 votes. The democrats have not concentrated their own strength. In consequence of the cavalier manner in which the softs were taken on caucus night, they have not united on Mr. Baily, the hard candidate, but flittered away their votes upon various other members. After the adjournment yesterday, a correspondence took place, (which is inserted in yesterday's Herald,) by which it appears that Mr. Baily steps squarely upon the national platform which the softs desire. Mr. Clark is a member from Jefferson, and Mr. Gray from Warren counties, neither of whom have yet voted for Mr. Baily. It now seems that on Monday evening or Tuesday morning he will obtain the entire democratic strength, 48 votes, which is 7 more than Odell, the Know Nothing, has received. Then if the plurality rule is adopted, Mr. Baily may succeed.

Destructive Conflagrations.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT SYRACUSE—WEITING BLOCK IN ASHES—LOSS $200,000.

Syracuse, Jan. 5, 1856.

The Weiting block, corner of Salina and Water streets, in this city, was destroyed by fire this morning. It was owned by Dr. J. M. Weiting, of this city, and valued at $100,000. It was insured for $58,000, mostly in New York companies, except $10,000 in Albany and northwestern companies. "Weiting Hall," in the upper story of the building, was the largest assembly room in the city, and much used for political conventions, being centrally located, opposite the Syracuse House and near the Globe and St. Charles hotels. The Crouse Bank and House telegraph office were in the block. The books and papers of the bank and the instruments and fixtures of the Telegraph office were saved. The entire stock of goods and clothing in the store of J. T. Ballard & Co., merchant tailors, was destroyed; insured for $22,000. A portion of the same block was occupied by lawyers, most of whom lost their books and papers. The granite buildings adjoining the Wieting block on Water street were nearly destroyed; insurance $10,000. Messrs. Marving, May & Heermans, hardware dealers, in the buildings on Water street, were insured sufficiently to cover their loss. The loss of E. S. Dawson & Co., dealers in saddlery and hardware, was also covered by insurance. On Salina street, the "Wicks block," containing the Mechanics' Bank, was much damaged; insured for $6,000 in New York companies. The stock of Butterworth & Co., hatters, was also considerably injured. Total loss about $200,000.

GREAT FIRE AT MIDDLETOWN, CT.—THE WATER POWER COMPANY'S BUILDINGS DESTROYED—LOSS $100,000

Middletown, Jan. 6, 1856.

The extensive buildings belonging to the Middletown Power Company were destroyed by fire this morning. There were two four story brick buildings, about thirty feet apart, with the boiler room between them. The fire was discovered about one o'clock, and owing to the snow storm and extreme cold the firemen were unable to check the flames. The [illegible] about $100,000. The buildings were occupied by N. Bacon, lock manufacturer; Bishop & Lewis, ditto; C. & F. Hubbard, rule makers; Chamberlain, Lewis & Co., ditto; Cooley & Co., ditto; the American Buckle Co.; J. North, truss manufacturer; J. Danforth, ditto; A. Ruff, laces; Nelson & Parkhurst, machinists, and Henry White, glazed paper manufacturer. The insurance is partial. The fire is the most disastrous ever known here. One hundred and fifty mechanics are thrown out of employment in consequence of it. Its origin is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

Alleged Breach of the Neutrality Laws.

NINE PERSONS ARRESTED IN CINCINNATI—MEDITATED DESCENT UPON IRELAND.

Cincinnati, Jan. 5, 1856.

Nine persons, all Irish, were arrested in this city last evening, by the United States Marshal, on charge of violation of the Neutrality laws. They were, this morning, held to bail in the sum of $1,000 each, to appear on Monday afternoon. It is the impression that they were acting in concert with parties in New York, and elsewhere, having in view a descent upon Ireland.

Death of a Virginia Legislator.

Washington, Jan. 6, 1856.

William M. Harding, a member of the Virginia Legislature, died on Saturday, from a dose of morphine taken through mistake.

Execution of Miller, the Murderer.

Baltimore, Jan. 5, 1856.

Miller, the man convicted of the murder of Dr. Hadel and Frederick Graff, at Cumberland, in this State, a few months since, was hung at that place yesterday, at 1 o'clock, in the presence of 6,000 persons. He died protesting his innocence.

Rumored Failures in Boston.

Boston, Jan. 5, 1856.

Three failures are reported as having occurred here to-day, one a heavy clothing house and the other two jobbing houses.

The January Term of the Law Courts for 1856.

This being the first Monday of the month, the law courts will be opened for the transaction of business. The legal campaign of 1856 virtually commences to-day, though it seldom happens particularly at the beginning of a new year, that all parties concerned are "ready for the fray." A vast amount of litigation, however, appears on the several calendars, and lawyers are likely to reap as rich a harvest during the present year as they ever have done in this most litigous and "law-loving" community. For instance, there are 1,777 causes for trial in the Superior Court, many of which are suits against railroad companies for deaths and injuries caused by alleged negligence; against insurance companies, for shirking their responsibility to pay risk on life or fire policies; and against other institutions, for the various causes of action to which public companies and extensive firms so frequently submit themselves. One of the foremost on the calendar of the Superior Court is the case of Fowles against Bowen & McNamee, well known merchants down town, and strict members of the church in uppertendom, for a written libel on the plaintiff, an ex-member of their establishment, which astute lawyers, twelve jurors and some judges have believed to be a slander to the tune of $6,000, but which ex-Judge Campbell thought entitled to revision, and granted a new trial, hence the cause comes up again this term. There is, also, in this Court a case at the suit of Giles against Flagg—the plaintiff contesting his right to the Comptrollership of this city.

The argument for a new trial in the celebrated Forrest divorce case is on the calendar of the general term of this court, which contains about 160 causes. On the special term calendar there are 153 causes. Judge Woodruff takes his seat as one of the Justices of the Superior Court, in the room of Judge Campbell. Judge Hoffman also takes his seat, he having been re-elected.

The Supreme Court general term will also open this day. The Lemon slave case is set down for next month. It will be recollected that a family named Lemon, owning eight slaves, were removing from Virginia to Texas, and while passing through New York the abolitionists obtained a habeas corpus, and brought them up before the late Judge Paine, who was compelled to decide that, according to the laws of this State, a slave becomes free when his owner willingly takes him into a free State. The eight slaves were, therefore, manumitted, and Lemon and his family became thus impoverished. A subscription was set on foot to remunerate them, which Judge Paine himself headed with $100. The present suit is against the State of New York. The Attorney General will be counsel for this State, and the Attorney General of Virginia for the Lemon family.

The Circuit and the special term of the Supreme Court will also be opened to-day. Judge Whiting was elected at the last election for six years. Judge Cowles was nominated by the Governor to fill the vacancy created by the death of Judge Morris, but his seat is contested by Henry E. Davis, Esq., who was elected by the people.

In the Court of Common Pleas there are over seven hundred causes on the trial calendar, among st which is the suit of Edwin Forrest, the tragedian, against N. P. Willis, the poet and editor, for a libel—damages are laid at $50,000. There is another action pending in this Court, which promises some curious details as to how contracts are obtained. It appears that a gentleman, whose name is mentioned as "a candidate for the highest office within the gift of the people"—(*Anglice*, President of the United States)—being at Washington, was employed to act as agent by several parties in this city, who were anxious to obtain a heavy government contract. Congress had already passed a resolution that a contract should be made—but whom was the Executive to select? The contract was obtained through the influence of certain parties, and suits are now commenced for the "consideration." John Minor Botts is the plaintiff in one of these suits.

Judge John R. Brady takes his seat in the Common Pleas, in the place of Judge Woodruff, and will preside at Chambers this month.

The Court of Oyer and Terminer stands adjourned to the second Monday in the month—the 14th instant. The accessories in the Poole murder, it is presumed, will not be put upon trial until the case against the alleged principal is disposed of. It is said, however, that some of the parties may plead guilty to manslaughter, and thus save a deal of tedious repetition of the horrors of the Stanwix Hall tragedy.

The trial of several persons charged with keeping gambling houses is likely to be one of the most interesting features of the month, as well as one of the most important in its issue to the well being of our citizens—particularly to our fast young men. Numbers of these hells are at the present moment in full blaze in New York, and seem to bid defiance to the law, or else to hoodwink the authorities. It is evident that heretofore the failure of the prosecution has arisen from the fact that witnesses have been tampered with, and induced for "a consideration" to leave the city. In the present cases indictments have been found against Patrick Hearne, No. 537 Broadway, and his partner, Alexander Edgar; S. Hillman, Murray street; George Beers, Chambers street; and Joseph Hall, Broadway. We understand that the witnesses against the indicted parties are men in high mercantile and respectable business positions, who have "suffered some" in the operations. The prosecution have taken care that one of the victims, Mr. Oscar S. Jennings, shall be forthcoming on the day of trial, as his testimony seems to be that upon which the whole charge hinges. The public look with anxiety to the result of these gambling house affairs, and the curious reader will find some startling developements in the proceedings. They will probably be tried in the Sessions this week.

The Marine Court calendar is, as usual, very heavy. Judge Maynard, who was returned at last election, takes the place of Judge Birdsall.

The United States Circuit Court is engaged in a patent case. The United States District Court term commences to-morrow.

The term of the Court of General Sessions for the new year begins to-day. The calendar is very heavy and it will require some hard work on the part of the Judges and District Attorney to reduce it. The bench will be taken to-day by Judge Capron, the newly appointed City Judge, in place of Sidney H. Stuart, resigned. Mr. Capron comes from Herkimer county, where for several years he has been engaged in the practice of the law. For four or five months past he has been a resident of this city. The first case of importance in which he was retained here being the case of the Carson League against Coleman & Stetson, of the Astor House, charged with selling liquor in violation of the Maine liquor law. In this suit Mr. Capron was the counsel for the prosecution, and argued the case before Recorder Smith. Judge Capron is a man of about forty-five years of age, and in politics a member of the Maine law, free soil school. His present appointment by Governor Clark to the position of City Judge, is for the time intervening between this and the first of January, 1857, when the office will be given over to the successful candidate in the election of November next. For the past three months Recorder Smith has sat upon the bench [illegible] time,